

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USNATO 03406 041236Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 SS-15 /028 W
-----100540 041330Z /42
R 041220Z APR 78
FM USMISSION USNATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0463

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 03406

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FOR EUR/RPM ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, PORG, NAC
SUBJECT: NATO SUMMIT
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1. IN CONNECTION WITH SUMMIT PREPARATIONS BELIEVE YOU
WILL FIND IT USEFUL TO HAVE THE FOLLOWING EXCERPT FROM
SUMMARY RECORD OF DECEMBER 9 NAC MINISTERIAL DEALING
WITH "DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT MINISTERIAL SESSION."
"17. THE CHAIRMAN RAISED THE QUESTION OF PROCEDURE
CONCERNING THE ORGANIZATION OF THE WASHINGTON SUMMIT
MEETING. HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THERE WAS A DESIRE THAT
ALL, IF NOT MOST, OF THE SECOND DAY SHOULD BE RESERVED
FOR BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS. HOWEVER, WHILE HE ANTICIPATED
THAT A GREAT PART OF THE AGENDA, INCLUDING A GENERAL
REVIEW OF THE INTERNATIONAL SITUATION AND THE STATE OF
THE ALLIANCE, COULD BE DEALT WITH ON THE FIRST DAY IN
BOTH THE FORMAL AND RESTRICTED SESSIONS, HE DOUBTED
WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO COMPLETE IT ON THAT DAY.
HE THEREFORE SUGGESTED THAT A MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE
ON THE SECOND DAY, EVEN IF HEADS OF STATE AND HEADS OF
GOVERNMENT WERE NOT ALL ABLE TO ATTEND IT FOR THE WHOLE
DAY.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 USNATO 03406 041236Z

"18. IN ADDITION, AN IMPORTANT SUBJECT WOULD BE THE
RESULT OF THE LONG-TERM DEFENCE PROGRAMME, AN ITEM OF
CONCERN, ESPECIALLY TO THOSE MEMBERS PARTICIPATING IN
THE INTEGRATED DEFENCE SYSTEM. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE
MOST APPROPRIATE SOLUTION MIGHT BE TO ARRANGE FOR A
SHORT MEETING ON THE SECOND DAY IN WHICH THOSE COUNTRIES
PARTICIPATING IN THE INTEGRATED DEFENCE WOULD TAKE PART.

SOME DEFENCE MINISTERS HAD ALREADY INDICATED THAT THEY WISHED TO BE PRESENT AT THE SESSION DEALING WITH THE LONG-TERM DEFENCE PROGRAMME.

"19. MR. DE GUIRINGAUD BELIEVED THAT THE SOLUTION SUGGESTED BY THE CHAIRMAN WAS THE ONLY ONE WHICH WOULD CORRESPOND TO THE WISHES OF THE DIFFERENT DELEGATIONS. ACCORDING TO THAT PROPOSITION, HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE COUNCIL WOULD MEET ON 30TH MAY AT '15', WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT AND SPEND THE WHOLE OF THAT DAY DISCUSSING THE GENERAL SITUATION OF THE ALLIANCE. ON 31ST MAY, THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE THIRTEEN COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE LONG-TERM DEFENCE PROGRAMME, PERHAPS ASSISTED BY THEIR DEFENCE MINISTERS, WOULD EXAMINE THE REPORT ON THAT PROGRAMME. ONCE THAT SPECIAL SESSION HAD BEEN CONCLUDED, THE MEETING COULD CONTINUE AT '15', AS PREVIOUSLY, IN ORDER TO FINISH THE DISCUSSION OF THE PREVIOUS DAY, IF THAT WERE NECESSARY.

"20. THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL OF DEFENCE PLANNING AND POLICY REMARKED THAT THE ABOVE-MENTIONED MEETING OF HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH WOULD BE PARTICIPATING IN THE LONG-TERM DEFENCE PROGRAMME WOULD HAVE TO CONSIDER A VERY SUBSTANTIVE REPORT. THEY WOULD BE ASKED IN IT TO PROVIDE THEIR CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USNATO 03406 041236Z

COMMENTS AND TO GIVE THEIR AGREEMENT TO WHAT MIGHT BE A DOZEN OR MORE PROGRAMMES INVOLVING CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THEIR COUNTRIES. FURTHER, IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THEY COULD EVEN BE ASKED, AT THAT STAGE, TO ENTER INTO COMMITMENTS CONCERNING RESOURCES. CONSEQUENTLY, JUDGING FROM PAST EXPERIENCE, HE FELT THAT THE MEETING COULD BE LENGTHY.

"21. THE CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT THERE WAS A GENERAL CONSENSUS IN FAVOUR OF HIS PROPOSITION, AS ELABORATED BY MR. DE GUIRINGAUD."

2. COMMENT: IT SEEMS CLEAR FROM THIS RECORD THAT FRENCH COULD NOT ARGUE THAT THEY HAD INSISTED ON TWO SEPARATE AND DISTINCT SUMMITS AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, THAT THEY HAD AGREED MEETING COULD CONTINUE AT 15, IF NECESSARY FOLLOWING LTDP DISCUSSIONS TO FINISH DISCUSSION OF NON-DEFENSE ITEMS. BENNETT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SUMMIT MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USNATO03406
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780145-0200
Format: TEL
From: USNATO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780492/aaaadatp.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f80b7db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3075203
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NATO SUMMIT -
TAGS: PORG, NATO, NAC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f80b7db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014